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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

DUONG, FRANK

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2666

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5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/663,009

Applicant(s)

WEISS ET AL.

Examiner

Frank Duong

Art Unit

2666

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 13-24, 29 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9-12, 25-28, 30 and 31 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2666

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is a response to the communication dated 09/15/2000. Claims 1-32 are pending in the application.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 9/24/01. These drawings are approved.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 29 is objected to because of the following informalities: Line 1; "claim 15" should change to --claim 16--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 14 recites the limitation "said communication channel" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Art Unit: 2666

5. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. "*A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing steps*" [a computer program] is a non-statutory subject matter because the computer program claimed as computer listings *per se* is not physical "things" nor "acts" being performed; thus, non-statutory. Applicants should amend the claim to reflect the computer program causing a computer device performing listed steps.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-8, 13-24, 29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kinrot (USP 6,574,193).

Regarding **claim 1**, in accordance with Kinrot reference entirety, Kinrot discloses an apparatus (20), comprising:

a plurality of encoders (22) for encoding respective sampled audio streams to produce respective encoded streams (*col. 7, lines 3-11*);

Art Unit: 2666

a plurality of first buffers (28), for receiving respective encoded streams and forming therefrom respective sequences of transport cells, each of said transport cells comprising a portion of said respective encoded audio stream (*col. 7, lines 12-18*), each of said first buffers having associated with it a respective first buffer utilization level (*col. 7, lines 34-35; relative fill level*); and

a second buffer (30), for receiving and forwarding to a communications channel said sequences of transport cells (*col. 7, lines 18-20*), said second buffer having associated with it a second buffer utilization level (*Fig. 1; set queue size according to cell rate*); wherein each of said encoders adapting (*Fig. 2; element 24*) an encoding fidelity level (*Fig. 2; BR1 or BR2 or BR3*) in response to at least one of said respective first buffer utilization level (28) and said second buffer utilization level (30) (*col. 7, lines 20-30*).

Regarding **claim 2**, in addition to features recited in base claim 1 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said encoders provide high fidelity encoding (BR1) in response to said second buffer utilization level being below a first threshold utilization level (MBR) (*Fig. 2 and col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6*).

Regarding **claim 3**, in addition to features recited in base claim 1 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said encoders provide medium fidelity encoding (BR2) in response to said second buffer utilization level being below a second threshold utilization level (MBR) (*Fig. 2 and col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6*).

Regarding **claim 4**, in addition to features recited in base claim 3 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said high fidelity (BR1) encoding

Art Unit: 2666

comprises 32kbps encoding and said medium fidelity (BR2) encoding comprises 24kbps encoding (*col. 1, line 64 to col. 2, line 31 and col. 10, line 5 and thereafter*).

Regarding **claim 5**, in addition to features recited in base claim 3 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said high fidelity encoding (BR1) comprises 48kbps encoding and said medium fidelity encoding (BR2) comprises 32kbps encoding (*col. 1, line 64 to col. 2, line 31 and col. 10, line 5 and thereafter*).

Regarding **claim 6**, in addition to features recited in base claim 3 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said encoders provide high fidelity encoding (BR1) in response to said respective first buffer utilization level being below a third threshold utilization level (*see Fig. 2 and col. 10, line 5 and thereafter*).

Regarding **claim 7**, in addition to features recited in base claim 6 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said high fidelity encoding (BR1) comprises 32kbps encoding and said medium fidelity encoding (BR2) comprises 24kbps encoding (*col. 1, line 64 to col. 2, line 31 and col. 10, line 5 and thereafter*).

Regarding **claim 8**, in addition to features recited in base claim 6 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said high fidelity encoding (BR1) comprises 48kbps encoding and said medium fidelity encoding (BR2) comprises 32kbps encoding (*col. 1, line 64 to col. 2, line 31 and col. 10, line 5 and thereafter*).

Regarding **claim 13**, in addition to features recited in base claim 3 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said transport cells comprise asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) cells (*col. 1, line 11 and thereafter*).

Art Unit: 2666

Regarding **claim 14**, in addition to features recited in base claim 3 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein a communication channel comprises a T1 communication channel (*output of element 37 shown connected to Network. Thus, Network inherently encompasses the claimed limitation because it includes every possible communication channels to include T1*), said first threshold level comprises 54 cells and said second threshold level comprises 65 cells (*col. 7, line 54 to col. 8, line 6*).

Regarding **claim 15**, in addition to features recited in base claim 3 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said cells comprise Internet Protocol (IP) packets (*col. 7, line 12*).

Regarding **claim 16**, in accordance with Kinrot reference entirety, Kinrot discloses an encoding method (20), comprising the steps of:

encoding (22), using respective encoders, each of a plurality of sampled audio streams to produce respective encoded streams (*col. 7, lines 3-11*);

storing (28) each of said encoded streams in a respective first buffer, each of said first buffers having associated with it a respective first buffer utilization level (*col. 7, lines 12-18*);

forming (28), for each of said stored encoded streams, a respective sequence of transport cells (output of 28), each of said transport cells comprising a portion of said respective stored encoded stream (*col. 7, lines 18-20*);

coupling (output of 28 into 30) said formed transport cell sequences to a communications channel (Network) via a second buffer (30), said second buffer having

Art Unit: 2666

associated with it a second buffer utilization level (*col. 7, lines 34-35; relative fill level*);
and

adapting (32) an encoding fidelity level (BR1, Br2 or Br3) of each of said encoders in response to at least one of said respective first buffer utilization level and said second buffer utilization level (*Fig. 2, col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6*).

Regarding **claim 17**, in addition to features recited in base claim 16 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said encoders provide high fidelity encoding in response to said second buffer utilization level being below a first threshold utilization level (*Fig. 2 and col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6*).

Regarding **claim 18**, in addition to features recited in base claim 16 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said encoders provide medium fidelity encoding in response to said second buffer utilization level being below a second threshold utilization level (*col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6*).

Regarding **claim 19**, in addition to features recited in base claim 18 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said high fidelity encoding comprises 32kbps encoding and said medium fidelity encoding comprises 24kbps encoding (*col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6 and col. 10 and thereafter*).

Regarding **claim 20**, in addition to features recited in base claim 18 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said high fidelity encoding comprises 48kbps encoding and said medium fidelity encoding comprises 32kbps encoding (*col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6 and col. 10 and thereafter*).

Art Unit: 2666

Regarding **claim 21**, in addition to features recited in base claim 18 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said high fidelity encoding comprises 24kbps encoding and said medium fidelity encoding comprises 16kbps encoding (*col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6 and col. 10 and thereafter*).

Regarding **claim 22**, in addition to features recited in base claim 18 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said encoders provide high fidelity encoding in response to said respective first buffer utilization level being below a third threshold utilization level (*col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6 and col. 10 and thereafter*).

Regarding **claim 23**, in addition to features recited in base claim 21 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said high fidelity encoding comprises 32kbps encoding and said medium fidelity encoding comprises 24kbps encoding (*col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6 and col. 10 and thereafter*).

Regarding **claim 24**, in addition to features recited in base claim 21 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said high fidelity encoding comprises 48kbps encoding and said medium fidelity encoding comprises 32kbps encoding (*col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6 and col. 10 and thereafter*).

Regarding **claim 29**, in addition to features recited in base claim 16 (see rationales discussed above), Kinrot further discloses wherein said transport cells comprise asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) cells (*col. 1, line 11 and thereafter*).

Art Unit: 2666

Regarding **claim 32**, in accordance with Kinrot reference entirety, Kinrot discloses a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for causing a computer device performing steps comprising:

encoding (22), using respective encoders, each of a plurality of sampled audio streams to produce respective encoded streams (*col. 7, lines 3-11*);

storing (28) each of said encoded streams in a respective first buffer, each of said first buffers having associated with it a respective first buffer utilization level (*col. 7, lines 12-18*);

forming (28), for each of said stored encoded streams, a respective sequence of transport cells (output of 28), each of said transport cells comprising a portion of said respective stored encoded stream (*col. 7, lines 18-20*);

coupling (output of 28 into 30) said formed transport cell sequences to a communications channel (Network) via a second buffer (30), said second buffer having associated with it a second buffer utilization level (*col. 7, lines 34-35; relative fill level*); and

adapting (32) an encoding fidelity level (BR1, Br2 or Br3) of each of said encoders in response to at least one of said respective first buffer utilization level and said second buffer utilization level (*Fig. 2, col. 7, line 31 to col. 8, line 6*).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 9-12, 25-28 and 30-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected

Art Unit: 2666

base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly shown or suggest the claimed invention of base claims 1 and 16 and further limit with the novel limitation of "*wherein said encoders provide high fidelity encoding to produce respective encoded streams including high, medium and low priority bits, said low and medium priority bits being removed from said transport cells in response to said second buffer utilization level being below a first threshold utilization level*" and "*wherein said encoders provide high fidelity encoding to produce respective encoded streams including high, medium and low priority bits, said low priority bits being removed from said transport cells in response to said second buffer utilization level being below a second threshold utilization level*", structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in a manner as recited in the dependent claims 9-12, 25-28 and 30-31.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Baker et al (USP 6,519,259).

Foodeei et al (6,445,696).

Sriram et al (6,169,738).

Art Unit: 2666

Chambers et al, Voice over ATM, Bell Labs Technical Journal, pages 176-191, 1998.

Holler, Voice and telephony networking over ATM, Ericsson Review No. 1, pages 40-45, 1998.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank Duong whose telephone number is (703) 308-5428. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM-3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on (703) 308-5463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Frank Duong
Examiner
Art Unit 2666

April 20, 2004